



WINNIPEG OFFICE:
1645 Inkster Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2X 2W7
Tel.: (204) 697-1625
Fax: (204) 697-1880
www.ArcticCo-op.com

IQALUIT OFFICE:
1121 Mivvik Street
P.O. Box 697
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel.: (867) 979-2448
Fax: (867) 979-2535

July 25, 2011

The Honourable John Duncan
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development
Room 310 Justice Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6



Delay in Constructing Access Road from Rankin Inlet
Meliadine Gold Project

Dear Minister Duncan,

Co-operatives in Canada's Arctic were among the first proponents and initiators of community economic development projects. As community-owned businesses, Co-ops continue to encourage, support and engage in community economic development. In recent years, natural resource exploration in Nunavut has provided new opportunities for the creation of local infrastructure along with training and employment opportunities for community residents.

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our concern with respect to regulatory delays that postpone the development of projects and the resulting negative impact on economic development in our communities. A recent example of this is the Agnico-Eagle request for permission to construct an all-weather access road to their Meliadine site outside of Rankin Inlet, which has been referred to you by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB).

The residents and businesses in Nunavut value the economic, commercial and employment opportunities afforded by projects such as Meliadine. We urge you to consider how the guidance that you offer to the NIRB will influence the pace of economic development of Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq Region and the territory of Nunavut and encourage you to facilitate the advancement of this project as expediently as possible.

Co-operatively,

Bill Lyall
President, Board of Directors

cc: Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development
Ryan Barry, Nunavut Impact Review Board
Denis Gourde, Agnico-Eagle - Meadowbank

